

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend Paragraph 30 on Page 7 of the Specification as follows:

Note that this statusing approach differs from the link integrity test used to determine the health of a link as far back as 10Base-T Ethernet. As described in the Cisco Press Internetworking Technology Handbook in Chapter 2: [[,]] ~~Internetworking Technology Handbook (online, at:~~

~~http://www.cisco.com/univercd/cc/td/doc/cisintwk/ito_doc/index.htm~~

~~in Chapter 2, (accessed September 20, 2002):~~

10Base-T was also the first Ethernet version to include a link integrity test to determine the health of the link. Immediately after power-up, the physical medium attachment (PMA) sublayer transmits a normal link pulse (NLP) to tell the NIC at the other end of the link that this NIC wants to establish an active link connection:

If the NIC at the other end of the link is also powered up, it responds with its own NLP.

If the NIC at the other end of the link is not powered up, this NIC continues sending an NLP about once every 16 ms until it receives a response.

The link is activated only after both NICs are capable of exchanging valid NLPs.